

Stacey Azuela  
5723½ Temple City Blvd.  
Temple City, CA 91780

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 4911 '99 MAY 24 A11:58  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038 (Irradiation in the productions, processing and handling of food)

Dear FDA:

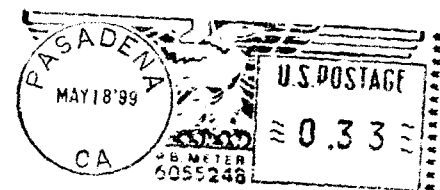
In regards to the above docket, as a consumer I am very concerned. As consumers, we need to be able to distinguish between foods that go through an irradiation process and those that don't. The alternative terms proposed to be used (i.e. electronic pasteurization) are misleading and not fair to those of us who are health-conscience. I understand that the irradiation process eliminates the presence of vitamins in foods, etc. We, as consumers, should not be taken for granted and misled by what we read. I am sure that there are masses of people who do not read the labels on the foods they buy; conversely, there are also masses of people like myself who DO in fact care about what is in the foods that we buy. Therefore, using misleading terms to avoid fear and/or ignorance in the general consumer is simply not right! (Yes, I would be fearful to ingest food that went through a process called irradiation, ESPECIALLY if I don't have any idea what that process is, like most people!) We are able to pick and choose the things that we buy, and we have the right to know what is in and what processes foods that we ingest have gone through. In this pathetic world of hate, sickness, death, etc., can't we at least trust an institution like the FDA to be truthful and honest? **What about truth in advertising? If you candy coat a process that our food is put through in order to avoid money loss for the producers of this food, then who will protect the consumer? Isn't consumer protection one of the main goals of the FDA?** It is my opinion that we should be able to buy products that are labeled correctly and are not misleading. On the same note, there should NEVER be an end to labeling requirements of truth. Period.

Sincerely,

Stacey Azuela  
Concerned Consumer

98N 1038

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